

# Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society

EST. 1974

[www.eaars.com](http://www.eaars.com)

INC.



[facebook.com/groups/eaars](https://facebook.com/groups/eaars)

Club Address: EAARS, PO Box 398, Solomon, AZ 85551



*January, 2024*

## JOIN EAARS on Facebook

EAARS has a presence on Facebook and you are invited to **JOIN** the page. This is a great media to quickly share news, photos and events that are EAARS related or might be interesting to the members. If you utilize "Notifications" on the EAARS Facebook page, you can receive club updates AS THEY HAPPEN.

To reach the page, please visit **facebook.**

**com/groups/eaars** and **JOIN** the page. You must have a Facebook account to be part of the EAARS group.



## EAARS Open Repeaters

**PL 141.3** unless noted otherwise

**Echolink:** 614350 **IRLP:** 7787

**Heliograph Peak at Safford, AZ:**

146.860, 440.700 Linked

146.900, 447.8250 Not Linked

**Jacks Peak at Silver City, NM:**

145.210 Linked

**West Peak at Ft Thomas, AZ:**

145.350 Access to link to network

**Pinal Peak at Globe, AZ:**

145.410 Linked

**South Mt at Alpine, AZ:**

145.270 Linked

**Caballo Mt at TorC, NM:**

145.470 Linked

**Greens Peak at Show Low, AZ**

146.700 Linked

**Little Florida at Deming, NM:**

147.060 Linked

**Mule Mt at Bisbee, AZ:**

147.080 Linked

**Mt Lemmon at Tucson, AZ**

147.160 Linked

**Guthrie Peak at Clifton, AZ:**

147.280 Linked

**Downtown at Tucson, AZ**

147.28 Output

146.26 Input, **PL 127.3**

# **Gals on the Air!**

**EST. June 2015**

Calling all Gals of any class ... Join us every Monday night for the  
**Gals Night Net @ 7:30 pm (AZ) on the EAARS system!**

**Facebook.com/groups/galsnightnet**

## **Upcoming Events**

*Would You like to see your event posted for the membership to see?  
Email your information to [emberfire@cox.net](mailto:emberfire@cox.net).*

**2024**

**1/21 - 1/27 ..... Quartzfest 2024**

**Clubs, send me the events you would like shown here.**

### **WEEKLY EAARS' NETS**

**Every day:**

*Down Under Net - 4:15 am*

*Weather Net - 5:30 am*

*NTS Traffic Net - 6:30 pm*

*All times are noted on  
Arizona time.*

**Sunday:**

*EAARS Net - 7:00 pm*

**Monday:**

*Gals Night Net - 7:30 pm*

**Wednesday:**

*Skywarn Net - During Monsoon, Every Wednesday at 7:30  
pm, Off Season, every third Wednesday of month at 7:30 pm*



# EAARS Officers and Staff

## Board Officers

President	Dan Quaintance	AF7EF
Vice President	Joe Montierth	K7JEM
Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Griggs	N5BG

## Staff

Site Trustee	Joe Montierth	K7JEM
Net Manager	Chris Buchanan	N7JND
Newsletter Editor	Angie Buchanan	N7EMB

## Net Control Operators

Rick	W8YBM	1st Sunday
Larry	KG7VLN	2nd Sunday
Chris	N7JND	3rd Sunday
Angie	N7EMB	4th Sunday

## ARRL RADIO CONTESTS

### *January*

- 1 . . . . . *Straight Key Night*
- 6 . . . . . *Kid's Day*
- 6-7 . . . . *RTTY Roundup*
- 20-22 . . . *VHF Contest*

For details on all ARRL contests and for non-ARRL contests,  
visit <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## New EAARS Members!



James	K7JEB
Barbara	KB7RVH
Jim	KI7JIM
Russ	KK7OLX
Steve	KF0LIC



# Welcome to EAARS 2024

As we come into 2024, I would like to take a look back at 2023 and thank the officers and staff of EAARS for everything they have done and accomplished. We can never thank those enough who keep the EAARS system online.

**Officers:** I would like to start with our EAARS officers. Dan AF7EF, President, Joe K7JEM, Vice President and Larry N5BG, Secretary/Treasure have put countless hours into the administration side of EAARS. This includes management of our membership list, holding monthly club meetings, organizing our yearly picnic and all three serve on the technical side keeping the EAARS system onli. They travel endless miles to the 12 mountain top sites for repeater maintenance and repairs. Thank You All for what you do!

**Newsletter Editor:** Our newsletter Editor, Angie N7EMB, also puts in countless hours each month producing our newsletter. It's not easy coming up with articles every month. It takes a lot of time to write, organize, compile and get the newsletter out on the first of every month. Personally, I don't know how she does it. She also serves as the creator of the Gals Night Net because she loves getting the YL's on the air. Thank You also to Trish W7FAS for helping host the Gals Night Net. Thank You both for what you do!

**EAARS Sunday Night Net:** We would like to thank the following Net Control Operators for taking an hour (maybe more) each month to conduct the EAARS Sunday Night Net. A big thank you to... Angie N7EMB, Rick W8YBM, Larry KG7VLN and Chris N7JND for being very professionals on the air and running these nets. A special thanks to all for stepping in and covering additional Sundays, as needed. You four are the best of the best. Thank You All!

**EAARS Technical Team:** In addition to Dan, Joe and Larry, there are many others who step up to the plate and keep EAARS online and help where needed. Although we don't have a list of names as many are with other organizations within the EAARS family, we want to give a special thanks to all involved who provide technical assistance, tower climbing, tower erecting and so many others that lend a hand to us. Thank You!

**Our Membership:** We would like to give a big thanks to our membership. You are the reason we even exist. Without your paid yearly dues, EAARS simply would not exist. I know it is preached often, but your dues go mainly to the following... Mountain top rental space, electricity, parts, antennas, radios, batteries, coax, etc. Also, it cost money in fuel, to get to these sites and many are a very long drive. So, to our membership, we thank you for paying your dues every month!

We look forward to a great 2024. Our membership is strong and our system is great. As a reminder, we look forward to any one page newsletter articles you would like to submit that are Ham related. We welcome all new members to EAARS and again, much thanks to our existing membership.

**THANK YOU ALL!!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

73, Chris N7JND



# Another Successful "EAARS Santa On the Air"

2023 was EAARS' sixth year of hosting yet, another successful ***Santa on the Air*** net!

We decided to try a new net, a ***Santa on the Air*** net, December of 2018. We weren't sure if it would catch any attention. It did! It was such a great success, we have been hosting the net ever since!

Every year, we have a handful of families that check in and their kiddos get to talk to Santa from the North Pole! Oh my gosh, you can hear the excitement in their voices! We all love hearing this net! After all, it is about the kids!

This net was perfect during Covid time. No one knew what was happening out there. There were Santas in boxes, bubbles and some other crazy places. But we had it covered for ham radio! It was the perfect event. We weren't expected to be masked while we talked to Santa! It was perfect!

A few years back, Mrs Claus started joining us in our nets. She is third party traffic, but she is working on her ticket. She needs to stop baking Santa so many cookies and spend more time studying! Hi Hi We love when Mrs Claus joins us!

Ms Rebelle, KJ7WXV, THANK YOU for making this a nice little tradition for us. Santa, Mrs Claus and I look forward to this net every year! We hope to continue it for a few more years! Hope you will at least listen to the joy in these munchkins. It is very Heart-warming!

**Happy New Year All!**



# A Very Simple Tester for Coax Integrity

As I was browsing around the web this morning I saw a video by another ham in which he used what he called his coax tester. He did not explain the circuit for his tester but it gave me an idea. Obviously what he had was a form of continuity tester with specific design elements for attaching it to a newly installed coax connector. It took only a moment to come up with a workable circuit.

The functionality of the tester is obvious. I have installed many PL-259s over the years and testing for a short with a regular digital meter sometimes seems to require three hands. This tester allows one to simply screw the PL-259 onto the tester to get an immediate "GO/NO GO" indication. If the LED lights up- you have a short circuit either in the coax or the connector. Start over. If the LED does not light up, the installation of the connector has no short circuit.

I mounted the components in a small plastic box left over from a previous project and labeled the box with instructions on its use. I included a test button in the circuit so that the user could make sure that the unit would give a proper indication when used. The button momentarily short circuits the tester so the LED will light up. If it does not then it is probably time to replace the two 1.5 Volt AAA batteries that power the LED. The actual size of the batteries is not critical, AA or AAA will work just fine. The important thing is to power the unit with 3 volts DC. That way, no dropping resistor is required.

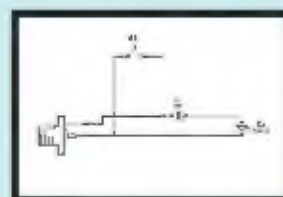
If you want to use a 9 volt battery just add the appropriate dropping resistor to the circuit. A 330 Ohm 1/8 watt resistor will do the trick just fine for 9 volt power. I suggest the use of a battery holder to make exchanging the batteries as easy as possible.

A protective ring wall was installed around the test push button to prevent inadvertent short circuits while it is stored in a tool box, pocket, or go-kit. The ring wall is nothing more than a section of a PVC tubing connector, hot glued around the push button. It has to be higher than the button, but only by a fraction since you want to be easily able to operate the button when using the tester.

## Parts List:

- 1 SO-239 connector
- 1 Red LED
- 1 Momentary Push Button (Normally Open)
- 1 Battery Holder for battery(ies) of choice
- 1 330 Ohm resistor (only needed if using a 9 volt battery for power)
- 1 Suitable enclosure
- 1 Protective ring to go around push button (section of PVC connector)
- Assorted hookup wire, hot glue, etc.

As you can see, the circuit is very simple. If there is a short circuit in the cable under test then voltage will be passed to the LED and it will light up. If the push button is activated then the circuit is also completed and the LED will light up.





## **\*\*\* PLEASE SET YOUR TIMEOUT TIMER \*\*\***

Welcome to 2024 and Happy New Year. This is our friendly reminder to make sure you have your Time Out Timers set up properly. On December 28th, the EAARS system did experience a stuck open microphone. Below is great information about the Time Out Timers built into most radios.

How many of you know what TOT stands for? It's found in most 2 meter and 440 and other radios both HT's and mobiles. If you are not familiar with TOT, get ready, as you are about to know what TOT stands for. TOT stands for Time Out Timer and should be the very FIRST thing that you program into your new radio. Since we have a few new Hams operating on EAARS, it's always good to send a reminder. Here it is...

Most modern and many older FM mobiles & HT's, have a TOT setting in their menu. It's extremely important you set this value to around 3 minutes for three main reasons which are...

- Save yourself from embarrassment. Stuck mics have great ears. They like to pick up words and other sounds and discussions that you probably don't want to be transmitting. I have heard it all including some great country music and I once heard someone read a credit card number out loud not knowing this was being transmitted around the world on EAARS because we have Streaming Audio. (I'm not kidding). And to top it off, I once heard a stuck microphone featuring someone crunching a whole bag of Doritos. Doritos have that special CRUNCH!!!

- Save Your Radio... Nothing burns out a final in a transmitter quicker than one being stuck on for hours. Most mobiles & HT's have very poor duty cycles when it comes to the transmitter being on. The finals can heat up very quickly and even the radio's heat sink can be extremely hot to touch as the heat sink is trying its best to do its job. Don't burn out your radio when the TOT can shut off your transmitter after 3 minutes and won't key up again until the PTT is released and keyed again.

- Stuck mics can tie up a repeater for a long time. Yes, most repeaters have a TOT programmed in them. However, when the repeater times out, it will usually reset in a minute or so and start transmitting the stuck mic again. But keep in mind, when there's a stuck mic on the repeater, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET THRU.

Stuck microphones are pretty much preventable just by setting your Time Out Timer and hanging the microphone up when not in use. It's one of the first things I do when I buy a new radio. If the new radio doesn't have a TOT, don't buy it. Even our trusty Baofengs have a TOT setting in their menu. Also, put the microphone in its clip when not in use. Don't just throw it down onto the seat. Seats were not designed to be mic holders. It's just gonna get stuck open when something else is thrown on top of it. I speak from experience.

Remember you are responsible for what's being transmitted out of YOUR radio. Take preventable measures to help prevent a stuck microphone. If you would like more information on how to prevent stuck microphones, please refer to your owners manual and read the section on HANGING UP YOUR MICROPHONE. If you don't know how to set your Time Out Timer, LEARN because every radio is different. On your basic Baofeng UV5R, it's Menu Number 9.



**From Our Family,  
To Yours,  
Happy New Year!  
May 2024 be a very  
Blessed Year!**

**From Your  
EAARS Family!**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
West Valley Amateur Radio Club's  
Ham Radio  
Swapfest-Tailgate**

**February  
17th  
7 AM to 1 PM**

**FREE  
COFFEE**



**WHERE**

**Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church  
(South Parking Lot)  
11025 N. 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sun City AZ 85351**

**No charge for Buyers & Lookers  
Only \$10.00 per Space for Sellers  
\$15/Space for Vendors**

**All items sold "As Is".  
Items must be Amateur Radio, Computer or  
Electronics related.  
We invite local Amateur Radio Club members to  
join us. All information & registration forms will  
be posted to our website in January.**

**Only Leashed Pets are Permitted. No Guns,  
Drugs, Alcohol or Fireworks.**

**Talk in on  
147.300+  
PL 162.2**



**CONTACT**

**Our Website will be updated soon: [westvalleyarc.com](http://westvalleyarc.com)**

**For Further Information:**

**Rob, KG0KM, at 715-828-8860 or  
email: [pignorsk@hotmail.com](mailto:pignorsk@hotmail.com)**

**HAM RADIO Operator RV's**



# **QUARTZFEST<sup>®</sup> 2024**

**What?** Quartzfest<sup>®</sup> is an annual HAM Radio RV and tenters Boondocking event which is held in late January every year with dates coinciding with the Quartzsite Arizona "RV Show".

**When?** January 21st thru 27th of 2024 (make sure you add these important dates to your 2024 calendar)

**Where?** 7 miles south of Quartzsite Arizona - on US 95 at La Paz Valley Road

**Who Can Attend?** ANYONE! If you don't have your Amateur Radio Operators License yet, you'll be able to take your Amateur Radio Operators License Exams at Quartzfest<sup>®</sup>

**Cost?** FREE!!!

Our Annual Amateur Radio "get together" is called "Quartzfest<sup>®</sup>" and is open to ALL to attend. Quartzfest<sup>®</sup> is not a club, no officers, no budget and no dues...and is absolutely FREE!! During the week of Quartzfest<sup>®</sup>, RV's are everywhere across the desert, as far as you can see...every make and model you can imagine!

There are hundreds of groups that meet in Quartzsite every year in different parts of the desert who share like interests. Our group, Quartzfest<sup>®</sup>, started out in 1997 as just a few HAM RV'ers getting together, camping in their RV's in the middle of the desert...no power, no running water. Solar Panels and Generators are in use everywhere (Porta-Potties are available for our tent campers and day visitors).

Quartzfest<sup>®</sup> is similar to a Hamfest but lasts an entire week and is packed full of scheduled Seminars and Activities. Talks range in topics from Genealogy and Crafts for Non-HAM's to Solar Power and Battery Information, Technical information for the seasoned HAM, and introductory information for the new HAM. Also included in the week's activities are VE Amateur Radio License Testing, Antenna Walkabout (touring other HAM's RV Antenna installations



# Other Club Stuff

***From Diane AA3OF: RST VE Testing will be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Witherspoon Hall, 9252 E 22nd St, at 7pm.***

<b>2024</b>	January 8	April 8	July 8	October 14
	February 12	May 13	August 12	November 11
	March 11	June 10	September 9	December 9

**If you live in the Graham or Greenlee County and are interested in a VE Testing Session, please feel free to contact Dan Quaintance AF7EF, (928) 235-1152.**



**Rise and Shine!!!  
with  
the  
Made it through the Night Gang Weather Net  
0530 Mountain Standard Time Daily  
on the EAARS Repeater System  
Weather and  
Conversation**

**Get a handle on the local weather from your fellow HAM operators around the EAARS coverage area and get to know them better.**

**We do a technical question of the week on Wednesday  
and the "Plea Market of the Air on Fridays**

**W7G6P - Steve  
Net Control  
K1VM/N7CDW  
Keith/Carrie**

**Radio Society of Tucson (RST) is now conducting two monthly events for new operators. 1) Radio Days in the Park will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, Reid Park, Ramada #22. 2) Newbies Net on Thursdays, 8pm on 147.000 MHz. Listen on 147.000 MHz, transmit on 147.600 MHz with a tone of 110.9 Hz.**

**Do you have any club news to share? It can be posted on this page.  
Send your info to Angie - [emberfire@cox.net](mailto:emberfire@cox.net).**

# Cooking up Some Magic



## Roasted Tomato Soup with Cheesy Crouton Topper

Courtesy of [thekitchen.com](http://thekitchen.com)

### Ingredients:

- 1 (28-ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes, preferably San Marzano
- 1 small yellow onion
- 4 cloves garlic
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme, plus leaves for garnish
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 3 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, grated (about 3/4 cup)
- 1 ounce Parmesan cheese, finely grated (about 1/2 firmly packed cup freshly grated or 1/3 cup store-bought)
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning or dried oregano
- 8 ounces crusty sourdough bread
- 1 (32-ounce) box low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar



PREP TIME: 30 minutes  
COOK TIME: 50 - 55 min  
SERVES: 4

### Instructions:

1. Arrange 2 racks to divide the oven into thirds and heat the oven to 425°F.
2. Empty 1 can whole tomatoes and their juices into a large Dutch oven, then use your hands to gently break apart and crush the whole tomatoes. Prepare the following, adding them to the pot as you go: Halve and thinly slice 1 small yellow onion. Crush 4 garlic cloves. Cut 2 tablespoons of the unsalted butter into small pieces. Place 4 sprigs thyme on top. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil and season with 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, and 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes.
3. Roast on the lower rack, stirring halfway through, until the garlic is soft and the mixture is bubbling and noticeably thickened, 40 to 45 minutes total. Meanwhile, grate 3 ounces sharp cheddar cheese (about 3/4 cup) and finely grate 1 ounce Parmesan cheese (about 1/2 cup).
4. Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons unsalted butter in a large bowl. Add 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning and stir to combine. Tear 8 ounces sourdough bread into rough 1-inch pieces directly into the bowl (about 4 cups). Use your hands to toss and coat the bread in the butter. Transfer to a baking sheet and spread into an even layer. Bake on the upper oven rack, tossing halfway through, until crisp and golden-brown at the edges, 13 to 15 minutes total.
5. When the tomatoes are ready, place the pot over medium heat. Stir the mixture to bring the thyme sprigs to the surface (be careful because the pot is hot), then discard the sprigs. Add 1 box low-sodium vegetable broth and simmer, stirring occasionally and scraping up the brown bits on the bottom and sides of the pot, until the flavors have melded, about 10 minutes.
6. Stir in 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar. Purée the soup in batches in a stand blender or with an immersion blender directly in the pot until smooth. Taste and season with more salt and pepper as needed.
7. If needed, move the upper rack to the middle of the oven so the Dutch oven fits under the broiler. Heat the broiler to HIGH. Sprinkle half the cheddar cheese over the soup. Top with the croutons, arranging them in a single layer so they cover the soup. Sprinkle with the remaining cheddar and all of the Parmesan. Broil on the upper oven rack until the cheese is melted, 1 to 2 minutes. Garnish with fresh thyme leaves.

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cook